

## From the Pastor

On Tuesday, March 14th, I was writing the final outline for the March 19 sermon. The text is from the single greatest chapter, located in the most important theological declaration in Christian history: Paul's Letter to the Romans, Chapter 8.

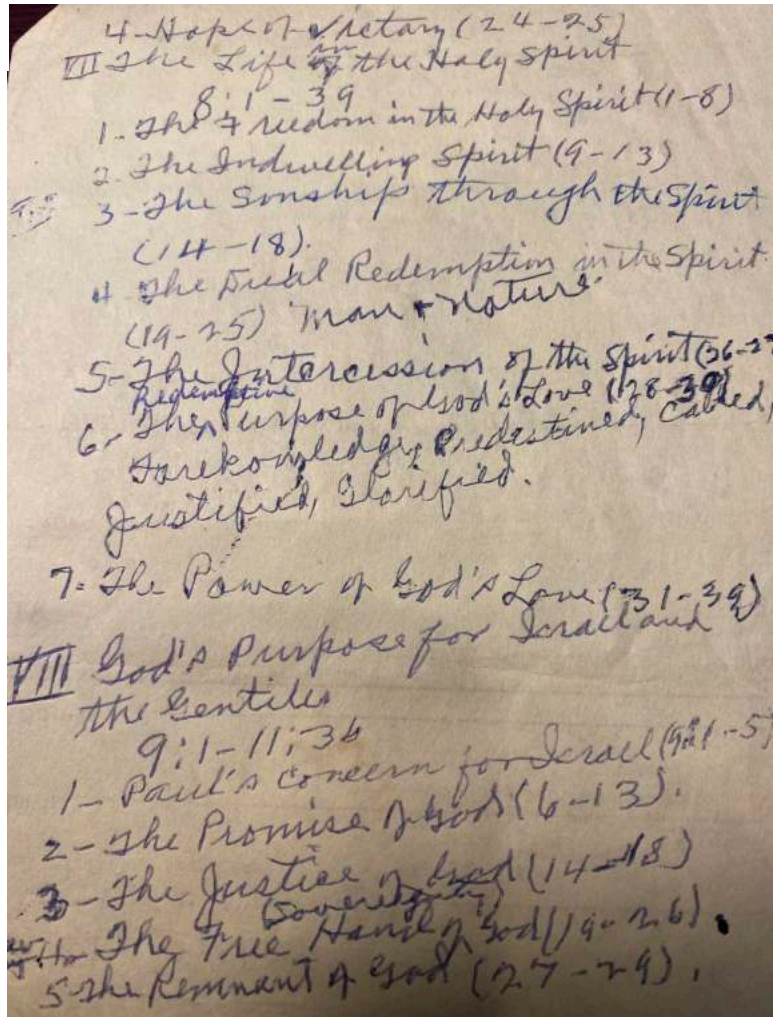
Paul "*considers the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the **glory** about to be revealed to us*" (Romans 8:18).

Glory is the promise of sharing in Christ's heavenly glory—a resurrected body— belonging to those who share eternal life in heaven.

How are followers of Jesus assured of future glory?

Life is given through the Spirit:

*But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you...Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness....*



**If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.**

(Romans 8:9-11)

Paul's words of hope touched memories of teenage years in a small Baptist church, singing Blessed Assurance/Jesus is Mine/**O What a Foretaste of Glory Divine.**

~~~

Paul also teaches that the Spirit “helps us in our weakness.” I must confess, during cold Midwest graveside services at Jefferson Barracks, looking upon a sea of crosses, doubt can creep in. *Is literal, bodily resurrection possible... or is it false hope to deal with our mortality—“ultimate nothingness.”*

NFFNSNC was an abbreviation placed on ancient Roman tombstones—*non fui; fui; non sum; non curo*— “I was not; I was; I am not; I care not.”

~~~

I was walking out of my office after staring at a blank computer screen. I knew the April newsletter article was due soon to Deanna, but I wasn't feeling any inspiration. I passed a bookcase on my right, and happened to notice the title, *Romans: A Verse by Verse Study*, by Herschel Hobbs—gifted to me over 40 years ago.

I opened the book—around 20 half notebook size papers fell to the ground. *How about that...?* Grandpa's notes on Romans, and of particular notice was his outline of Romans 8 (pictured on page 1).

Well, I had my inspiration for Third Base and began to write this pastor's article.

The scraps of paper placed me on a road of hope.

The promises Grandpa read and outlined in Romans 8 apply to all our stories. He's been gone since January of 1982 but I choose to stubbornly believe I will see him again—along with a great cloud of witnesses who have passed on.

The promise of resurrection is not up to my feelings, doubts, or worries. *The same Spirit which raised Jesus from the dead will raise Grandpa, me, you, and your loved ones.*

And living with this hope seems a more reasonable option than NFFNSNC.

~~~

In times of doubt and despair, I recall Peter's conversation with Jesus:

Jesus lost many of his disciples.  
Jesus turned to Peter.

“Do you also wish to go away?”

Peter said,

**Lord, to whom can we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.  
And to whom else would we turn?

Beloved, He is Risen!

Grace and Peace,  
Tommy





# Family Ministries

Rev. Drew Phillips  
Minister to Families

## Camp Sign ups!

### Lake Springfield Baptist Camp

#### Choose your own Adventure Camp

June 14-17 (Grades 6-12)

Directed by Natalie Thiems

<https://hipaa.jotform.com/230447859388169>

#### Junior High Camp - July 9-15

(Completed 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades)

<https://hipaa.jotform.com/230448001432139>

#### Senior High Camp - July 16-22

(Completed 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades)

<https://hipaa.jotform.com/230447973666165>



#### Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Palm Sunday

We'll begin with donut fellowship at 10:00 a.m. and Worship at 11:00 a.m.

#### Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

We'll have a **Seder Service** in Johnson Hall at 5:30 p.m.

#### Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday Service

7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

#### Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> - Breakfast

at 9:45 a.m. in Johnson Hall - followed by an Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Reading for all ages in the Children's Department.

Easter Celebration at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.



#### Youth Laser Tag:

April 28<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM

The Edge,  
Belleville IL

Meet at church,  
dinner is  
provided!



# Missions Moment

Our Missions Committee is pleased to report that TBC's end of year Christmas offering totaled \$18,000 which was divided between Tim and Kathy Rice and their wonderful work through American Baptist Church's International Ministry in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Scarlett Jasper, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel, serving Eastern Kentucky. Both offerings went to assist with housing, providing spaces for medical interns to live in the DRC and construction in an area of Eastern Kentucky devastated by massive flooding.



Look for this box outside the sanctuary or in the church office – **for APRIL we'll be collecting toothpaste and toothbrushes.** Each month we'll promote and collect a new item.

Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> after worship we'll pack boxes to be sent to Corbin, KY, where CBF Field Personnel, Scarlett Jasper, serves one of the most economically challenged areas in the US. In addition, this region had a once-in-a-generation flood last year.



**Scarlette Jasper**

OLIVE BRANCH MINISTRIES, MCCREARY COUNTY, KENTUCKY







THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH

# Des Peres Baptist Church Endowment Fund

Ministries within the city

Do you or your organization serve in Saint Louis city and have a financial need?  
Do you or your organization serve an under-resourced community?

- Simple Application Process
- Opportunity to tell your organization's mission and story
- Explain your specific need and hopes for the grant
- Grants that meet criteria will be awarded based on available funds during the cycle
- Applications will be reviewed by the Urban Ministries Board to assess financial need and alignment with the mission of Third Baptist Church and Des Peres Baptist Church Endowment Fund



## Spring 2023 Grant Cycle

**Begins- March 31, 2023**

**Applications Due- April 30, 2023**

Access our application and find out more information on  
our website



### **Palm Sunday, April 2**

Commemorating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to the shouts of "Hosanna" and the waving of Palms.

*\*Please note the following schedule: due to roadblocks caused by Go St. Louis Marathon: Donut Fellowship is moved to 10 a.m., followed by Bible Study for all ages. Worship is at the usual time: 11 a.m.*



### **Seder Service Meal, Wednesday, April 5**

Johnson Hall, 5:30 p.m.

A remembrance of the exodus and liberation of Israel from slavery—mirrored by Christ's victory over sin and death.



### **Good Friday, April 7**

Sanctuary of Third Baptist, 7 p.m.

Commemorating the day of Jesus' crucifixion—worship is guided by the Perseid String Quartet.



### **Easter Sunday, April 9**

Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ—three days after the crucifixion.

9:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast in Johnson Fellowship Hall

11 a.m. Easter Worship Celebration

## Musical Moment

### **GOOD FRIDAY**

In recent years the 7 p.m. evening service at TBC has taken the form of a meditation in which music and readings describe and complement the story of Jesus's crucifixion. This is a rare opportunity for worshippers "to be still and know that I am God," and it is a time treasured by those who attend and contemplate Christ's sacrifice for us.

This year, our favorite string quartet, the Perseids, will be joined by a double bass, percussion, and guitar, to present a work in four movements that laments the death of the poet, Federico Lorca. An early victim of the Spanish Civil War, he was one of the most gifted writers since Cervantes in the 16th century. His verses, together with appropriate sacred readings, will punctuate the music by Patrick Gowers, a prominent British composer and long-time music director for Royal Shakespeare Company.

Third is indebted to his widow, Caroline, for providing the score that will enable us to present the North American premiere of the piece; the music is sure to enhance and sharpen our wonder at the loss of innocence, and at Christ's suffering on the Cross.

## Adult Discipleship

**Wednesday Nights: April 12 through May 17 at 5:45 p.m.**

All are invited to fellowship meal and discussion of James Bryan Smith's *The Good and Beautiful Community*

**Dinner is served at 5:15 p.m.**  
Please RSVP to Tommy by the Tuesday before, to reserve your spot.

Our group will explore following the spirit, extending grace and demonstrating love.



**CARDINALS VS BLUE JAYS!**  
**SUNDAY APRIL 2, 1:15 P.M.**  
**\$10.00**

**THIRD HAS A BLOCK OF SEATS --**  
**SEE DREW FOR TICKETS AFTER SUNDAY**  
**WORSHIP**

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday to...*

- 03 🎁 Sue Haverman  
& Alexis Fay  
& Caren Wright-Simons
- 07 🎁 Sylvia Barnes
- 17 🎁 David Jolly
- 20 🎁 Colton Simons
- 22 🎁 Ella Banks
- 30 🎁 Donna Turpin  
& Mbebo Governor



**In the city for good!**

620 North Grand Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
Office 314.533.7340  
third-baptist.org

## Third Baptist Church Staff

**Dr. Tommy Simons**  
PASTOR

**Rev. Drew Phillips**  
MINISTER TO FAMILIES

**Dr. Philip Barnes**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

**Ella Banks**  
RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE  
ASSISTANT

**Robert Hubbard**  
FACILITIES MANAGER

**Timothy Harrison**  
CUSTODIAN

**Brent Johnson**  
ORGANIST

**Tom Kurtz**  
BUSINESS MANAGER

**Dr. Garik Pederson**  
PIANIST

**Christine McCarthy**  
FINANCE

**Sally Stevenson**  
PARISH NURSE